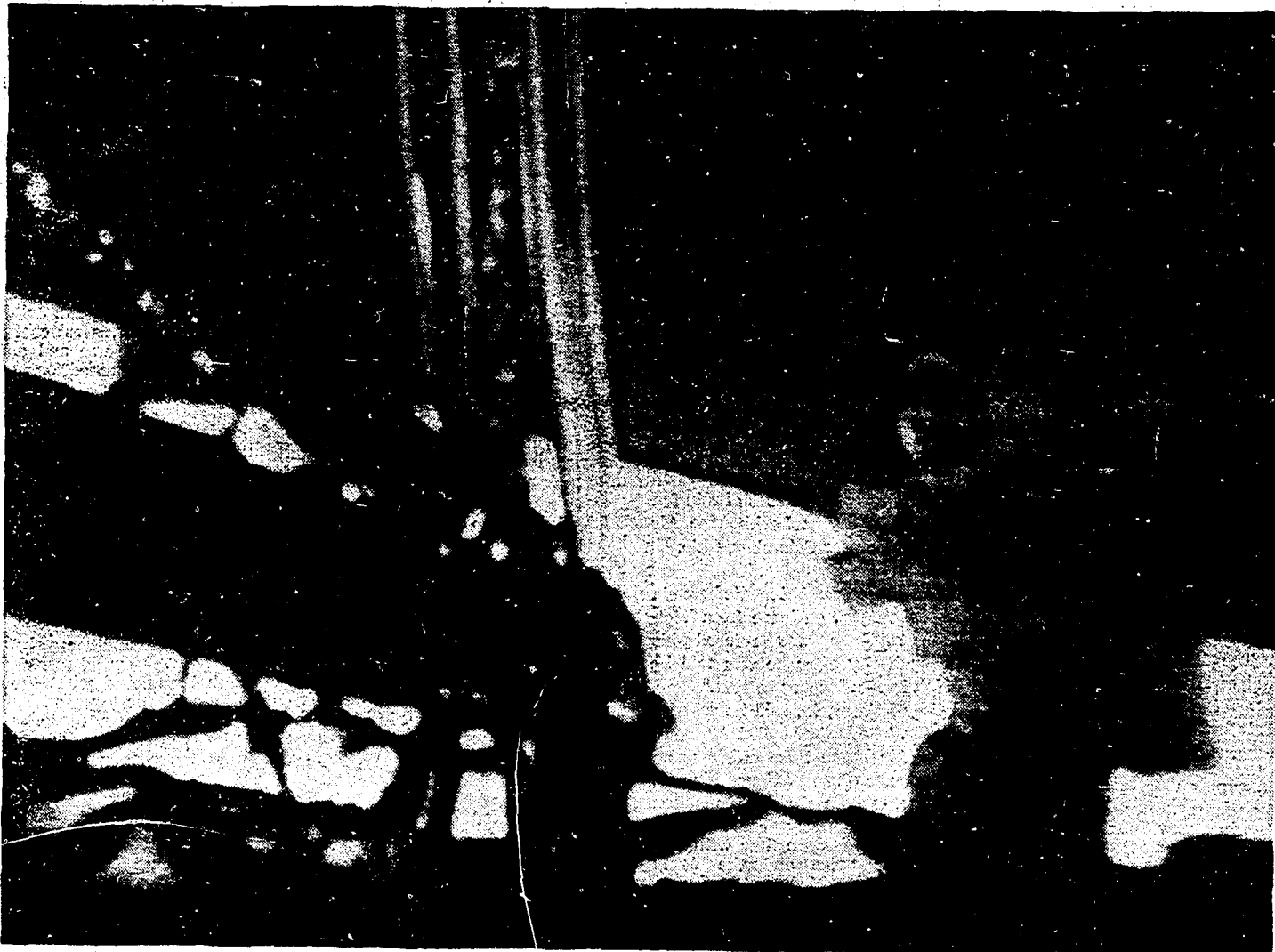


WALK ON MOON

'That's One Small Step for Man... One Giant Leap for Mankind'



TAKING A WALK—Neil A. Armstrong, wearing life-support backpack, steps on lunar surface after descending the ladder of the spacecraft.



PLANTING THE FLAG—Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. setting Stars and Stripes on the moon. Reflecting light, left, is a landing leg. © Wirephoto

Armstrong Beams His Words to Earth After Testing Surface

BY MARVIN MILES AND RUDY ABRAMSON
Times Staff Writers

HOUSTON—U.S. astronauts stepped onto the surface of the moon Sunday and explored its bleak, forbidding crust in man's first visit to another celestial body.

Apollo 11 Commander Neil A. Armstrong climbed slowly down the ladder from the spaceship Eagle, and became the first man to set foot on the lunar surface.

As Armstrong swung his left boot to the surface of the moon at 7:56 p.m., PDT, he gave millions of spell-bound television viewers words sure to live in history:

"That's one small step for man... one giant leap for mankind."

Nearly seven hours earlier, Armstrong had averted possible disaster by taking full manual control of the vehicle on landing, selecting a safe spot for man's first landing on the moon.

Much of the civilized world watched and listened as Armstrong and fellow explorer Edwin E. Aldrin Jr., who followed him down the steps about 20 minutes later, collected rocks which may reveal the oldest secrets of the solar system.

Collins Waits, Listens

Waiting and listening in lunar orbit was the third member of the Apollo crew, command module pilot Michael Collins.

As he took his first steps on the lunar surface, Armstrong could be seen in remarkably clear television pictures taken by a camera attached to the lunar module descent stage. He described what he found.

He said the surface "appears fine-grained, almost like a powder. I can kick it up loosely with my foot. I only go in maybe an eighth of an inch."

Armstrong said the lunar module's round footpads penetrated the surface only one to two inches.

At first the black-and-white pictures were silhouettes, but then as Armstrong moved away from the ladder his bulky life support pack could be discerned. In almost no

time Armstrong was moving around the surface rapidly—quickly adapting to the lunar environment.

The spacecraft commander went to work on his first major assignment, the gathering of a contingency sample of lunar soil. This is a "quick grab" of sample material, about two pounds, retrieved with a butterfly net-type device.

The contingency sample was planned to assure that at least some lunar material would be brought back to earth, if for any reason the astronauts had to launch from the moon in an emergency.

At one point he said he had penetrated the surface six to eight inches with the sampler and told Mission Control, "I'm sure I could push it in further."

Practices Several Jumps

Aldrin was down on the surface of the moon at 8:16 p.m. with an athletic drop of what appeared to be about three feet. He then immediately practiced several jumps to determine the effect of the moon's weight gravity on his balance and coordination.

Mission Control here asked Armstrong if he foresaw any difficulty transferring equipment back and forth between the surface and the lunar module cabin in the top stage of the spacecraft and his cryptic reply was "Negative."

As soon as Aldrin was on the surface, both men could be seen by the television audience working near the ladder which was mounted on the lander's forward leg.

One of the first tasks of the two men after Armstrong gathered the contingency sample and stowed it in a bag in his spacesuit pocket, was to

Please Turn to Page 10, Col. 1

TALKS TO ASTRONAUTS

Heavens Have Become Part of Man's World, Nixon Says

BY STUART H. LOORY
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — For two minutes Sunday night, President Nixon spoke via radiotelephone to his farthest flung countrymen — American astronauts in the moon's Sea of Tranquility—and told them:

"Because of what you have done, the heavens have become part of man's world and, as you talk to us from the Sea of Tranquility, it inspires us to redouble our efforts to bring peace and tranquility to the earth."

Those were the official words of the President of the United States, speaking from the august Oval Office of the White House.

A few minutes earlier, Mr. Nixon, like television viewers all over the

world, sat in a smaller, private, more informal office and watched astronaut Neil A. Armstrong climb down from his moon landing ship to set the first human feet on the moon.

The President, his eyes fixed on the set, said: "It's an unbelievable thing. Fantastic."

Col. Frank Borman, who commanded the Apollo 8 Christmastime voyage around the moon, was with the President when Armstrong took his walk. He provided the President with a running commentary and explained the technicalities of the mission.

Why, Mr. Nixon wanted to know, Please Turn to Page 6, Col. 2